

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS STATE 044427

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MASS, PRC, IN

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING
MARCH 9, 1973.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF PAKISTAN' S REQUEST FOR ARMS FROM
THE U. S.?

A. IT CONTINUES. THAT WHOLE QUESTION OF THE MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN CONTINUES UNDER REVIEW.

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Q. DO WE REGARD THE 1959 BILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH PAKISTAN FOR GENERAL AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION-- ECONOMIC AND MILITARY-- TO BE STILL IN FORCE?

A. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK FOR YOU. I DON'T KNOW THE LEGAL STATUS OF THAT AGREEMENT. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK.

Q. YESTERDAY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY, ZEIGLER, SAID THE U. S. POLICY ON ARMS TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN REMAINS UNCHANGED.

NOW YOUR ANSWER, "UNDER REVIEW," IS THAT MEANT TO MEAN A CHANGE SINCE YESTERDAY?

A. NO.

Q. DID THE PAKISTANI ENVOY SEEK ANY SPECIAL U. S. MOVES, DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT? AND IF SO, WHAT WAS THE U. S. RESPONSE.

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT ANY USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED IN GETTING INTO AN EXHAUSTIVE REVIEW OF THE DISCUSSIONS HERE IN WASHINGTON.

CERTAINLY, INsofar AS HIS DISCUSSIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WERE CONCERNED WITH THE SECRETARY, THEY COULD FAIRLY BE CHARACTERIZED AS A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN.

BEYOND THAT, AND IN A SLIGHTLY BROADER CONTEXT IT WAS WHAT WE REGARDED AS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE PROGRESS THAT IS BEING MADE, HAS BEEN MADE, UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT, FROM WHICH WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, DERIVED SOME SATISFACTION.

AND, LOOKING AHEAD, AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE FROM THESE CONVERSATIONS SOME FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS AND STABILITY WITHIN THE SUB-CONTINENT, IN THE TIME TO COME.

... IN SUM, WE FOUND THE DISCUSSIONS QUITE USEFUL, AND HOPE THAT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN DID AS WELL.

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Q. THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PAKISTAN HAS NOT EVEN TAKEN A SMALL STEP TOWARDS THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION AND OTHER THINGS KEY ON THE CONTINENT. DOES THE U. S. GOVERNMENT SHARE THAT EVALUATION?

A. WELL, LOOK, I THINK TWO THINGS NEED TO BE SAID. IF ONE WERE TO CHARACTERIZE THE STATE OF AFFAIRS, AND CERTAINLY THE ATMOSPHERE WITHIN THE SUB- CONTINENT - IF ONE WERE TO COMPARE THE STATE OF AFFAIRS AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE SUBCONTINENT IN MARCH OF 1973 WITH THE SITUATION WHICH OBTAINED A YEAR AGO, THERE HAS BEEN UNDENIABLE PROGRESS BY EVERYONE'S ACCOUNT OF IT.

TWO, I FEEL NO COMPULSION, SPEAKING FROM THE
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KABUL
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